

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05

CIEP-01 /090 W

----- 114417

R 280742Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3570

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUWAIT 3551

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR KU BA

SUBJECT: KUWAITI REACTION TO RECENT EVENTS IN BAHRAIN

1. TO DATE THERE HAS BEEN NO OFFICIAL REACTION BY
GOVERNMENT OF KUWAIT TO THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BAHRAIN
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OTHER THAN A TIMID STATEMENT BY ACTING
MINISTER OF STATE ABDULLAH AL-MIFFRIJ THAT KUWAIT STANDS
BEHIND GULF STATES IN ALL FIELDS. THERE HAS BEEN SOME
PRESS COMMENTARY TO THE EFFECT THAT ACTING AMIR AND CROWN
PRINCE SHAYKH JABIR AL-AHMAD AL-SABAH HAD URGED BAHRAIN NOT
TO DISSOLVE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, BUT RATHER TO RESOLVE
DIFFERENCES AND PRESERVE A HEALTHY DEMOCRACY. SIGNIFICANTLY,
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THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED STATEMENTS BY LEFTIST MEMBERS
OF THE KUWAIT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. PRESS REACTION HAS VARIED DEPENDING UPON THE POLITICAL COLORATION OF THE NEWSPAPER, WITH THE KUWAIT DAILY NEWS STICKING TO PRIMARILY FACTUAL REPORTING, WHILE THE KUWAIT TIMES HAS FEATURED FRONT PAGE EDITORIALS BEMOANING THE DEMISE OF KUWAIT'S ONLY OTHER PARTNER IN THE "PARLIAMENTARY EXPERIMENT" IN THE GULF AREA. ARABIC LANGUAGE DAILIES LIKEWISE HAVE REFLECTED POLITICAL HUES WITH AL-QABAS TAKING A MODERATE AND CONCILIATORY TONE, WHILE PAPERS SUCH AS AL-WATAN HAVE BEEN MORE SHRILL IN MAKING CYNICAL ACCUSATIONS THAT BAHRAIN HAS BEEN PLANNING THIS UNPROVOKED MOVE FOR SOME TIME.

3. LEFTIST ORGANIZATIONS, PRIMARILY STUDENT ASSOCIATIONS AND LABOR UNIONS, HAVE ISSUED PREDICTABLE STATEMENTS DENOUNCING THE BAHRAINI MOVE, SAYING THAT DEMOCRACY IN BAHRAIN WAS ONLY A "SHAM".

4. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT REACTION IN KUWAIT HAS BEEN SURPRISINGLY LOW KEY, WITH EVERYONE WAITING FOR THE DUST TO SETTLE AND A GOVERNMENT POSITION TO CRYSTALLIZE. KUWAIT FINDS ITSELF IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF WATCHING A KEY GULF STATE REJECT THE KUWAIT MODEL, BUT GOK WILL DOUBTLESS CAREFULLY CONSIDER EFFICACY OF PUBLIC CRITICISM. WE NOTE THAT CHIEF OF THE AMIRI DIWAN SHAYKH KHALID AL-AHMAD HAS BEEN DISPATCHED TO SAUDI ARABIA TO CARRY MESSAGE TO KING AND CROWN PRINCE, AND SUSPECT IT MAY CONCERN BAHRAINI EVENTS. MAU

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